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ABSTRACT

This document provides a brief review of the New York State Basic Competency Tests (BCT), Preliminary Competency Tests (PCT) and Regents Competency Tests (RCT), together with a summary of the results of the tests administered in New York City in Spring, 1979. Test requirements for 1979, 1980, and 1981 are outlined, as well as administrative decisions recommended by the State Education Department based on the results of the 1979 PCTs. (Author/RLV)

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MEMORANDUM

FRANK J. MACCHIAROLA
CHANCELLOR

September 7, 1979

ED183638

TO: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

FROM: Frank J. Macchiarola

SUBJECT: Summary of Citywide Results on New York State Competency Tests

Following is a brief review of the New York State Basic Competency Tests, Preliminary Competency Tests and Regents Competency Tests, together with a summary of citywide results on the tests administered in Spring 1979. These data were prepared by the Office of Educational Evaluation.

1. New York State Competency Tests (Basic Competency, Preliminary Competency and Regents Competency

A. Basic Competency Tests

Graduating seniors in June 1979 were required to pass a Basic Competency Test (BCT) in Reading and Mathematics to be eligible for a high school diploma.

Graduating seniors in June 1980 will be required to pass (65%) BCT's in Reading, Mathematics and Writing to be eligible for a high school diploma.

Students who pass Regents examinations in English and Mathematics are exempt from the BCT's.

B. Preliminary Competency Tests

Preliminary Competency Tests (PCT) were given to younger students (Grades 8, 9 and 10) in Reading and Writing to identify those in need of placement in appropriate remedial programs to develop the skills required to pass the Regents Competency Tests. PCT's will only be administered to 8th Grade students hereafter.

C. Regents Competency Tests

Regents Competency Tests (RCT) in Reading, Mathematics and Writing will replace the BCT's in June 1981.

Graduating seniors in June 1981 and thereafter will be required to pass the RCT's in Reading and Mathematics and Writing to be eligible for a high school diploma. Students in 9th and 10th grades were administered the RCT in Mathematics in June 1979 to begin to qualify for 1981 high school diplomas.

Students who pass the English Regents will not be required to take the RCT in Reading or Writing nor will they be required to take the RCT in Mathematics if they pass a Regents examination in Mathematics.

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II. Summary of Competency Test Requirements

Graduation Date	1979-1980 School Year	Competency Test Requirements
June 1980	Grade 12	1. BCT in Reading OR English Regents 2. BCT in Writing OR English Regents 3. BCT in Mathematics OR ANY Math Regents
June 1981	Grade 11	1. RCT in Reading OR English Regents OR BCT in Reading if passed before February 1979 2. RCT in Writing OR English Regents OR BCT in Writing if passed before February 1979 3. RCT in Mathematics OR ANY Math Regents OR BCT in Math if passed before February 1979
June 1982	Grade 10	1. RCT in Reading OR English Regents 2. RCT in Writing OR English Regents 3. RCT in Mathematics OR ANY Math Regents
June 1983	Grade 9	Same requirements as June 1982-Grade 10

III. Summary of Citywide Results on New York State Competency Tests and State Education Department Recommended Administrative Decisions

A. Basic Competency Tests

Citywide results of the 11th Grade BCT's in Reading, Mathematics and Writing, administered in June 1979, are presented in Table 1.

TABLE 1

	No. Passing	No. Failing	Total No. Tested
Reading Test	2,792 (76.3%)	867 (23.7%)	3,659 (100.0%)
Math Test	3,967 (60.0%)	2,642 (40.0%)	6,609 (100.0%)
Writing Test	1,968 (51.3%)	1,869 (48.7%)	3,837 (100.0%)

Citywide results of the 12th Grade BCT's in Reading and Mathematics, administered in June 1979, are presented in Table 2.

TABLE 2

	No. Passing	No. Failing	Total No. Tested
Reading Test	1,587 (91.3%)	151 (8.7%)	1,737 (100.0%)
Math Test	3,096 (78.2%)	863 (21.8%)	3,960 (100.0%)

3. Preliminary Competency Tests

Citywide results of the PCT's in Reading and Writing in Grades 8, 9 and 10, administered in April 1979 are presented in Tables 3 and 4. A brief description of the categories currently used by the State Education Department to interpret PCT's results and recommended administrative decisions immediately follows each table.

TABLE 3

Citywide Summary of Preliminary Competency Test Results in Reading (April, 1979)

Category	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade
A 70 - 100	34,800 (53.9%)	47,457 (65.2%)	40,702 (73.5%)
B 59 - 69	13,701 (21.2%)	12,216 (16.8%)	7,549 (13.6%)
C 53 - 58	5,100 (7.9%)	4,008 (5.5%)	2,262 (4.1%)
D 45 - 52	4,586 (7.1%)	3,392 (4.7%)	1,885 (3.4%)
E 00 - 44	6,403 (9.9%)	5,701 (7.8%)	2,979 (5.4%)
NO. TESTED	64,590 (100.0%)	72,774 (100.0%)	55,377 (100.0%)

Administrative Decisions Recommended by the State Education Department Based on the Preliminary Competency Test in Reading

Category	Total Number Correct	Comment	Recommended Administrative Decisions
A	70 or above	Probably will pass the final Regents Competency Test	None mandated
B	59 to 69	At and just above the State Reference Point	Emphasize reading in courses
C	53 to 58	Just below the State Reference Point	Must provide some remediation within the general curriculum
D	45 to 52	Below the State Reference Point	Must provide remediation beyond that included in the general curriculum
E	44 or below	Very far below the State Reference Point	Must provide intense individualized remediation

TABLE 4

Citywide Summary of Preliminary Competency Test Results in Writing (April 1979)

Category	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade
A 80 - 100	13,068 (21.4%)	13,271 (19.7%)	8,251 (16.4%)
B 65 - 79	24,209 (39.7%)	27,098 (40.2%)	21,858 (43.4%)
C 50 - 64	15,852 (26.0%)	18,287 (27.0%)	14,459 (28.7%)
D 00 - 49	7,856 (12.9%)	8,830 (13.1%)	5,811 (11.5%)
NO. TESTED	60,985 (100.0%)	67,486 (100.0%)	50,379 (100.0%)

Administrative Decisions Recommended by the State Education Department Based on the Preliminary Competency Test in Writing

Category	Score	Comments	Recommended Administrative Decisions
A	80 or above	Probably will pass the final Regents Competency Test	None mandated
B	65 to 79	At and just above the State Reference Point	Emphasize writing in courses
C	50 to 64	Just below the State Reference Point	Must provide remediation within general curriculum
D	49 or below	Far below the State Reference Point	Must provide remediation beyond that in the general curriculum, including intense individualized remediation

C. Regents Competency Tests

Citywide results of the RCT's in Mathematics in Grades 9 and 10, administered in June 1979, are presented in Table 5.

TABLE 5

Category	9th Grade	10th Grade
Passing	9,880 (31.2%)	11,178 (38.8%)
Failing	21,833 (68.8%)	17,658 (61.2%)
NO. TESTED	31,713 (100.0%)	28,836 (100.0%)

This brief description of the required New York State Competency Tests is meant to provide a broad overview of the tasks we face as we meet the new requirements. I request that this item be discussed at a meeting of the Committee of the Whole.

FJM/cms

cc: R. Halverson
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